

Mumps

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Mumps

Mumps is a viral illness that usually causes swelling and tenderness of the salivary glands, particularly the gland at the angle of the jaw. Headache, slight fever and earache are common. Possible complications including Meningitis (an inflammation of the coverings of the brain and spinal cord), Encephalitis (an inflammation of the brain), deafness and, particularly in adolescent or adult males, inflammation of the testicles.

Who gets this disease?

Mumps may be seen in unimmunized children, or adolescents and young adults who graduated from school prior to laws requiring mumps immunization. Most adults born before 1957 have been infected by exposure to the disease and are probably immune.

How is it spread?

The mumps virus is found most often in saliva. It is transmitted by direct contact or by droplet spread of the virus in the air through sneezes and coughs. Mumps is most infectious 48-hours **prior** to the onset of symptoms.

What are the symptoms?

The most common symptoms are: 1) Fever with headache and earache, and 2) Swollen glands in front of and below the ear. Symptoms appear 12-26 days after exposure. Infected persons are contagious from one week **before** to nine days **after** swelling begins. A small percentage of immunized children may be infected with mumps if their bodies fail to respond adequately to the vaccine.

How can the spread of mumps be prevented?

The national Immunization Practice Advisory Committee (ACIP) recommends that children be immunized against mumps after they are 12-months-of-age. This is frequently combined with measles and rubella vaccine, which most children receive between 12- to 15-months-of-age.

Who should be excluded?

A child or staff member with mumps should not return until nine days after the onset of swelling. Any susceptible child or staff member at a child care center shall not return to the center until 26-days after onset of parotid gland inflammation in the last person with mumps in the center. Any person so

excluded may return to the center immediately if he/she receives mumps vaccine.

Reportable?

Yes. Mumps is reportable by New Hampshire law.